

still required, except for those items designated by an asterisk (*), which were previously submitted by the applicant in a parent application, from which benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 is claimed, with an *Information Disclosure Statement* submitted in the parent application which complies with the September 8, 2000 or subsequent revision of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a-c), as allowed under 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d)(1).

- ✓ If any of the cited/submitted documents is in a foreign language, a concise explanation of relevance is provided pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(i). For foreign language documents cited in a search report by a foreign patent office, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance is satisfied by the submission herewith of an English language version of the search report. MPEP §609A(3). If a written English-language translation of a non-English language document, or portion thereof, is within the possession, custody or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in §1.56(c), a copy of the translation accompanies this statement, 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(ii), and satisfies the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance, MPEP §609A(3).
- ✓ ***PTA Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d).*** Each item of information contained in the *Information Disclosure Statement* was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the *Information Disclosure Statement*.

This statement should be considered because:

- ✓ **37 C.F.R. §1.97(b).** This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (b) because:
- (1) It is being filed within three months of the filing date of an application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);
-- OR --
 - (2) It is being filed within 3 months of entry of a national stage;
-- OR --
 - (3) It is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits,
-- OR --
 - (4) It is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114.
- **37 C.F.R. §1.97(c).** Although it may not qualify under subsection (b), this statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (c) because:
- (1) It is being filed before the mailing date of a FINAL Office Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the subject application, whichever occurs first.
-- AND (check at least one of the following) --
- (1) It is accompanied by a STATEMENT as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e).
-- OR --
- (2) It is accompanied by the \$180 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).


— 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d). Although it may not qualify under subsection (b) or (c), this statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97, subsection (d) because:

- (1) It is being filed on or before payment of the Issue Fee;
-- AND --
- (2) It is accompanied by a STATEMENT as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e);
-- AND --
- (3) It is accompanied by the \$180 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

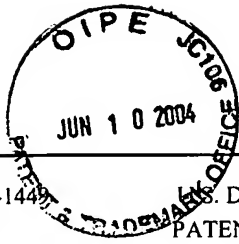
✓ **Fee Authorization.** The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325. A duplicate copy of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/8/04

By: 
Michael L. Robbins
Reg. No. 54,774

Customer No. 23910
FLIESLER MEYER LLP
Four Embarcadero Center, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-4156
Telephone (415) 362-3800



Form PTO-1449 (Substitute) Information Disclosure Statement BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	Attorney Docket Number PANA-01096U1	Serial/Patent Number 10/816,786
	Applicant/Patent Owner Richard M. Ehrlich		
	Filing/Issue Date April 2, 2004	Group Art Unit Unknown	

U.S. PATENTS

Examiner Initial		Patent Number	Issue Date	First Named Inventor	Class	Subclass	Filing Date
	1.	5,107,378	4/21/1992	Cronch			
	2.	6,411,459	6/25/2002	Belser			
	3.	6,445,521	9/3/2002	Schaff			

U.S. PATENT PUBLICATIONS

Examiner Initial		Patent Application Publication Number	Publication Date	Applicant
	4.	2002/0135927	9/26/2002	Yatsu
	5.	2003/0161061	8/28/2003	Lamberts

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No	
	6.	JP 10334402	12/18/1998	Japan				
	7.	JP 63025803	2/3/1988	Japan				
	8.	JP 61211814	9/19/1986	Japan				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Include author (if any), title, publisher and place of publication, date and pertinent pages)

Examiner	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

*1 = Copy not submitted because it was submitted in prior application SN __/__, filed ____, 20__, relied on under 35 USC §120.

*2 = Copy not submitted because it was submitted in prior application SN __/__, filed ____, 20__, relied on under 35 USC §120.